

Olmsted

"Quiet spots should be chosen, with artistic skill, where lovers of nature, and those who may be induced to be, can, in comparative solitude, get away from strife of commercial life into an atmosphere pure and inspiring."

*"Let's Make a Beautiful City of Seattle," Say the Park Commissioners
Seattle Post-Intelligencer 9-21-1902*

NEWS

FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS

WINTER 2003

2003 Marks the Centennial of Seattle Olmsted Park System

by Kari Stiles, *Olmsted Centennial Coordinator*

A century ago, city officials, community leaders and the citizenry of Seattle recognized the value of their spectacular natural landscape and invited the top landscape architectural firm in the country to design a citywide park system that would celebrate, showcase and protect the spectacular Pacific Northwest landscape while providing access and opportunities for all of Seattle's citizens to experience and enjoy their extraordinary natural environment.

John Charles Olmsted, the stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and a partner in the Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, MA, arrived to survey the Seattle area in the spring of 1903. By October the firm had prepared plans and recommendations for a comprehensive system of parks and boulevards that has achieved national recognition as one of the most fully-realized Olmsted park systems in the country.

The Olmsted legacy includes such familiar Seattle treasures as the Washington Park Arboretum, Magnolia, Ravenna and Lake Washington Boulevards, and Volunteer, Woodland, Green Lake and Seward Parks, as well as over 30 other Seattle area parks and boulevards. Even today, we are still acquiring and developing parklands recommended by the Olmsted plan 100 years ago. For example, the original plan recommended four parks along Lake Union. Within the last 25 years the city has acquired Gas Works Park, Fairview Park and most recently, South Lake Union Park at or near sites recommended by Olmsted in 1903.

The Olmsted plan looked forward 100 years to provide open space for a city of 500,000 people. Seattle has now reached that mark, and today's challenge is not only to protect and preserve our century-old legacy but also to carry the Olmsted philosophy into the next 100 years of landscape design and planning in order to ensure the preservation of open space in Seattle and the surrounding region in the next century.



Youth in Focus photo by
Gabino Mabalay

Celebrating Olmsted Parks

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Seattle Parks and Recreation and over 45 community, city and county partner organizations are organizing a yearlong series of events and projects that will provide opportunities for community members and professionals to learn about and celebrate Seattle's Olmsted legacy and its contribution to the development of the Seattle urban landscape. Some of the 2003 highlights include specific parks projects such as the Seattle Park Foundation project to restore the Volunteer Park lily ponds, the EarthCorps IvyOUT project in Olmsted landscapes, the Days in the Parks neighborhood park events, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks annual conference in May.

Throughout 2003 there will be events celebrating our Olmsted landscape legacy including walks, lectures, bicycle tours, work projects and community celebrations. Check the FSOP website for regularly updated information about Centennial events and projects.

www.seattle.gov/FriendsofOlmstedParks

Centennial Event - January 27

Trust for Public Land: Evolution of Parks Lecture by Lee Springgate

As part of the Olmsted Centennial, Trust for Public Land is hosting a lecture on the *Evolution of Parks* - a historical perspective on urban parks systems by Lee Springgate, former director of Bellevue Parks and Community Services. The lecture will be held on Monday, January 27, in the North Room on the 2nd Floor of REI at 222 Yale Ave N, Seattle, at 7 pm, and will be preceded by a reception at 6 pm, hosted by the Olmsted Centennial Committee. Join us for this kick off for the Centennial year. The Olmsted Parks Centennial display will be on view at World Wraps inside REI through Tuesday, Jan. 28, before moving to the Green Lake Community Center on Feb. 1 for two weeks.

President's Message

We are pleased to be celebrating the centennial of the Olmsted park system in Seattle this year with the theme "Learning from the Past, Inspiring the Future," but **we need your help** to make the celebration a success. To volunteer please contact Kari Stiles, Olmsted Centennial Coordinator at 206.332.9915 or seattle2003@olmsted.org.

We are also pleased to be hosting the National Association for Olmsted Parks annual conference in Seattle from April 30 through May 4. Please plan to attend to learn more about our local and national Olmsted legacy. Volunteers are also needed for this event. Visit our new website www.seattle.gov/FriendsofOlmstedParks for more information.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to renew your membership in FSOP and make a contribution for the Centennial. Please join us in preserving and celebrating our historic Olmsted legacy in Seattle.



Douglas E. Jackson, President, FSOP

Centennial Events

Seattle Parks Foundation Olmsted Park Walking Tours

As part of the Olmsted Centennial, Seattle Parks Foundation is organizing monthly walking tours of Olmsted parks. These two-hour walks are scheduled for the third Saturday of each month at 10am. The one for January at Volunteer Park was attended by over 150 people. The schedule for the year is listed below and is also available at seattleparksfoundation.org or seattle.gov/FriendsofOlmstedParks. Please join us for these informative walks in our historic parks hosted by representatives from Seattle Parks Foundation, the Board of Park Commissioners, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Seattle Parks and Recreation and local park "Friends" groups. Visit seattleparksfoundation.org or call Hilary Bramwell, 332-9900, for more information.

Olmsted Parks Walking Tours

Feb 15 Hiawatha Playfield, West Seattle
Mar 15 Jefferson Park and Cheasty Boulevard,
Beacon Hill
Apr 19 Bobby Morris Playfield/Lincoln Reservoir Park,
Capitol Hill
May 17 Washington Park and Arboretum
Jun 21 Woodland Park
Jul 19 Seward Park
Aug 16 Frink/Leschi/Madrona Parks
Sep 20 Colman/Mt. Baker Parks
Oct 18 Schmitz Park
Nov 15 Cowen/Ravenna Parks
Dec 20 Green Lake Park



Centennial Event - March 20

Boston to Seattle: First and Last of the Olmsted Arboreta

On Thursday, March 20, 9:30am, Phyllis Andersen, Director of the Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University will present a lecture on the first and the last arboreta designed by the Olmsted firm: the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University and Washington Park Arboretum, here in Seattle.

This free lecture is being presented by the Seattle Garden Club as a partner in the Olmsted Centennial Celebration at the Seattle Asian Art Museum Auditorium in Volunteer Park.

Centennial Project

Arboretum Signature Garden

by Douglas Jackson

Several months ago the Arboretum Foundation invited the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks to design and install a special display garden in recognition of the Olmsted Centennial Celebration in 2003 in the "Signature Garden" that is adjacent to the Graham Visitors Center in Washington Park Arboretum. The Signature Garden offers a unique opportunity for different organizations to design and install a display garden to focus attention on a special issue or design. It recently has had designs as different as a Beekeeper theme; a stylized Japanese Garden, and a semi-tropical plants theme. These unique display gardens are installed on an annual basis.

The garden that I have designed and installed has an Olmsted Centennial theme. It is meant to be a casual planting bed focused primarily on the wide variety of plant materials that were used by the Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects when they laid out the planting areas in the park properties that they designed for Seattle in the early 1900s.

It is the intention that the Signature Garden which I have put together will function as an introduction to and conversation starter about the Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects firm as well as the many park properties that were developed in Seattle based upon their designs.

I have used wide variety plants in this display garden and hope that it will have botanical as well as visual interest over the course of the year. Several landscape companies have generously donated all of the plant and landscape materials including: Pacific Plants, Julius Rosso Wholesale Nursery, Teufel Nursery, Classic Nursery & Landscape Co., Ragen & Associates, Mutual Materials, Cedar Grove Composting.

This Olmsted Signature Garden will be in place during most of 2003 and probably will be most fully in bloom during the NAOP national conference in May.

EarthCorps Receives Leadership Grant for Olmsted Centennial Project



EarthCorps, a Seattle youth-based environmental restoration nonprofit organization, has been working with community groups to remove invasive English Ivy from parks, with a focus on Seward Park, in celebration of the Centennial of Seattle's

Olmsted Park system. Other Olmsted parks where work has occurred or is planned include: Interlaken, Frink and Cheasty Boulevard. EarthCorps has recently been notified that it has received the Seattle Foundation leadership grant for \$100,000 for work in Cheasty Greenspace. Please join EarthCorps, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Friends of Seward Park, Natural Resources Stewardship Network, and other organizations and individuals working toward a vision of ivy free Olmsted parks for the next one hundred years. You can help by joining a volunteer event to pull ivy and by educating yourself and others about the damage ivy does.

EarthCorps' success depends on broad community support. Join EarthCorps, Friends of Seward Park and Seattle Parks and Recreation in an effort to free the trees in Seward Park of ivy. Work parties meet every 3rd Saturday of the month from 9am to noon, meet at the Nature Center near the park entrance.

To volunteer contact Joanna Nelson at EarthCorps: joanna@earthcorps.org or 206.322.9296 ext. 205. To learn more about EarthCorps and other volunteer events visit: www.earthcorps.org. To learn more about English ivy visit: www.ivyout.org.

Olmsted Centennial Project



Youth In Focus photo by **Megan Fredette**

Engaging Youth

Youth in Focus is a program to empower urban teens, through photography, to experience their world in new ways and make positive changes in their lives. Students at Youth In Focus have been commissioned to explore Seattle's Olmsted parks and prepare an exhibit

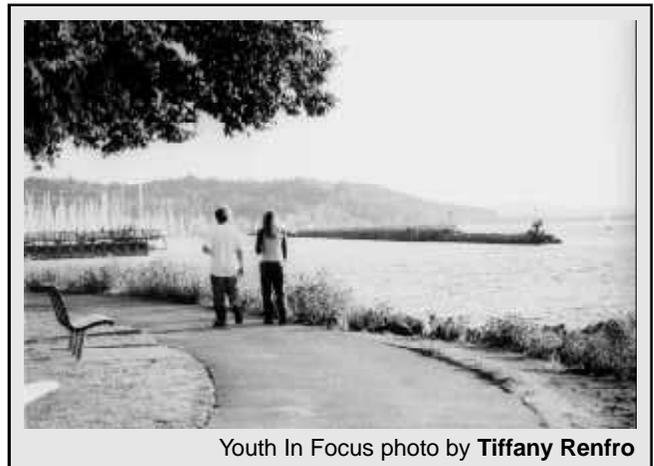
of contemporary impressions for display at the Washington State Convention Center as part of the Olmsted Centennial Celebration. The exhibit is scheduled to run from April through June. These are samples of the students photographs.

English Ivy Threatens Olmsted Legacy

by *Steve Dubiel, EarthCorps*

As we celebrate the Centennial of Olmsted designed parks in Seattle, we have the opportunity to create our own legacy in these treasured parks for the next 100 years. While Olmsted parks are enjoyed by millions of individual visitors each year, only a small percentage of park visitors are aware that the parks they enjoy today are a legacy of the Olmsted vision. Likewise, few visitors are aware that English Ivy, first planted in our yards and parks more than 100 years ago, is threatening the future of the forests in Seattle's parks. James Frederick Dawson, from the Olmsted firm, noted in his 1904 "List of Plants Growing In and About the Various Parks of Seattle" that the English Ivy he saw already thriving in Seattle's parks "does especially well, makes fine bank cover and undergrowth." Because it does so well, English Ivy over the years has been a popular ground cover. Even Dawson recommended propagating it and using it as one of seven alternatives to help stabilize steep slopes where the trees had been logged. Only in recent years have we become aware of the extensive damage it can do the health of our forests. Far from being a harmless ground-cover that evokes gentility and orderliness, ivy is an insidious invader that seeks to eradicate all competitors.

English Ivy now covers a major portion of forested areas in many of Seattle's parks. Ivy vines are climbing and choking native trees and dense ivy mats on the ground prevent other native plants from growing. If left undisturbed, the ivy that blankets much of this forest will kill off remaining native trees within the next few decades. Ivy provides ideal habitat for rats, and terrible habitat for any other animal. Join us in this Centennial year in helping to restore the health of our forests.



Youth In Focus photo by **Tiffany Renfro**

Olmsted's First Notes About Seattle

Before John Charles Olmsted came to Seattle in April, 1903, he met with Captain Pratt of the U.S. Geodetic Survey Office who provided extensive background. The notes below, which J.C.O. recorded following their meeting, demonstrate the immense amount of detail he was able to absorb and record. This ability was a result of excellent training by his stepfather, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., who insisted on careful and thorough recording of observations.

SEATTLE PARKS.

Conference with Mr. J. C. O. - - - - - 19th March, 1903.

Called on Capt. John F. Pratt, at 10 A.M. as previously arranged by telegraph, at the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Office, lunched with him and staid with him until 2.30 P.M. He said he had been stationed at Seattle for 7 or 8 years and had been assigned to various duties. Two years he was attached to a commission to determine and report upon a site for a Navy Yard which after some delay was finally established where his commission recommended. He was also attached to the Alaska boundary survey commission. At other times he has had charge of a party surveying the coast. He evidently knows a great many people and is fully in sympathy with the leading people out there. He said the country at and about Seattle is all glacial drift and the soil while good is very liable to slip. Also there are occasional quicksand deposits. The better class of people are mostly young, married and have families, so the school population is unusually large and as these people have all their money in their business they rent their houses and have no horses and carriages. Hence, the first developments should be in the existing parks which have electric car communication, in order to popularize the parks and win public opinion to more liberal park expenditures. The scheme of parkways which they have in mind can hardly be begun with the present park appropriations, nor can the city, having only 120,000 to 140,000 population, expect as yet to go in for heavy park appropriations. What the park commission hopes is that a plan can be adopted by the city for parkways so that all private and public land subdivisions here after adopted shall be made to conform to the parkway plan. He thinks intending purchasers will avoid buying land designated for future parkways and parks because they will not wish to be finally deposed and because the local juries being composed of tax paying citizens will be very careful not to award huge damages against the city. He is evidently thoroughly imbued with the arguments likely to be used by the land boomers favoring parks and parkways. He spoke as if part of his duties to his employers was to collect photographs, statistics and arguments that might be used in a booming park report that would stimulate public sentiment in favor of parks. He said that the president of the Park Commission, Mr. Blaine, is a prominent lawyer, Pres't of the Denny-Blaine Land Co., one of the largest of the booming land companies, and Pres't of several big irrigation Companies, which operate east of the Cascade Mountains, Another Park Commissioner, Mr. Fowler, is a structural engineer, and Pres't of the Puget Sound Dredge and Engineering Company, one of the largest concerns of its kind on the Pacific Coast and which takes state and U.S. Government contracts. Another Park Commissioner, Mr. Saunders, is one of the principal architects of the city, his strong point being in decoration. Another Park Commissioner is a barber but he could not remember his name, nor the names of the remaining members of the Board. He said that the City Engineer was so fussy that he could not very well attend to the preparation of the topographical maps, required by us, so he, (Capt. Pratt) has been employed especially for this work. The tables of the City Engineer's office being used all day by his regular assistants, the set of draughtsmen employed on the parkway maps are draughting at night. There are three surveying parties in the field. He said that the City Engineer has so many street grading contracts on hand that the needed computers of quantities have to use the desks of the Common Council during the day, the Common Council being business men without pay have sessions only during the evening. He gave me four maps, one a little map of the city streets torn from a directory he said, although its title indicated otherwise. This map is

compiled and more or less inaccurate but useful because it shows practically all the recorded street plans up to within a year or two. Another map is a contour map tracing to fit over this city plan. This has 50 feet contours which are not accurate but give a general idea of the topography. Another map is a positive blueprint of the tracing from which the above tracing was traced but it shows large cross section squares and outlines of various parks, cemeteries and semi public grounds. The blueprint has shrunk as compared with the tracing. On this blueprint someone has sketched by a single red pencil line the proposed parkways. The idea is to start at S. end of the southernmost park, slant down the hill, N.E., turn in the valley, slant up the hill, S.E., bend E. to near Lake Washington, (keeping about 75' above it, Capt. Pratt said) and running thence northerly, to Madrona Park (street railway park) then climbing the hill, N.W. and crossing over it and down into valley, and passing under the high trestle of Madison Street, enter land already held by city along one side of brook and called Washington Park. Capt. Pratt has advised the Commission to buy land along the other side of creek and says there is water enough to supply a series of pools which he advocates. He also advocates transferring to this park the menagerie already begun in Woodland Park or Green Lake. From Washington Park the parkway continued N.W. to and through the State University grounds and N. W. to N. side of Green Lake, around the whole lake, through Woodland Park. The surveys and maps he thinks have got as far as this. Then come complications with existing land subdivisions and he thinks the line sketched impracticable. It runs first S.W. and then S. E. slanting down hill to W. end of Union Lake, and thence to Interbay, local designation of a part of the city, 4 miles from ? Square and where the R. R.'s cross between two hills from Salmon Bay to Elliott Bay. The parkway then goes round the next two hills to N. W. and through the U. S. Military Reservation. Returning toward the city it follows as nearly as possible the top of the bluff commanding superb views. This part forms a loop. The R. R.s will be crossed by an existing bridge at Grand Boulevard. It will probably be necessary to follow existing subdivision streets with bad grades, sudden right angled, etc. The fourth map is a coast survey sheet showing Seattle on 1 to 20,000 scale. This was compiled some 20 years ago and is corrected in some particulars, mainly concerning navigation, to Dec. 1901, but is far behind the times regarding streets, etc. Capt. Pratt said the country involved is largely covered with forest, from which most of the merchantable timber was long ago cut. The firs and pines being tall and shallow rooted have thus become exposed and are frequently blown over. It is the practise to replant in anticipation of this. The undergrowth is mainly deciduous and luxuriant so it is necessary to follow the cut by the transit men. He thought the bank along the Lake Washington shore was worth fully \$500 an acre when I mentioned that price. The city formerly obtained its water from Lake Washington and to prevent pollution by sewage there are two sewer tunnels, one S. E. of the dense part of the city and the other N. W. of it. Now the city gets its water by gravity from the upper Cedar River, This joins the river by which Lake Washington overflows a short distance from the lake but when the lake surface lowers in summer, the waters of Cedar River flow toward the lake instead of toward the sea. He thought the lake about 14 to 16' above sea level that it fell perhaps 4 or 5' in summer owing in evaporation or inadequate supply. It is expected that U. S. will cut a ship canal from Lake Washington to Union Lake and thence to Salmon Bay and there is a little canal for logs at the former place already. Union Lake, he thought was 7' or 8' above the sea level. There are swamps at various places about the lakes. Lake Washington is deep but Union Lake is shallow and shows mud flats in summer. There are large areas of low land on the south of the city & so for miles also so the river that drains the Lake Washington. He said nothing about additional parks large or small and I inferred that the main effort at present would be to get parkways as these would, some of them benefit real estate schemes. We spoke of a tract S. W. of S. Seattle as being a "natural park" meaning that the trees stood far enough apart so that grass covers the ground, but the surrounding region is low and likely to be devoted to factories. He talked a great deal more both about Seattle and other things. He thought the surveys for parkways would not be done before July. He said stone for macadam was brought from a basaltic formation by rail. This stone is weathered into fragments and only needs to be screened.

Source: Library of Congress - Olmsted Associates Papers - Job 2690

Mark Your Calendar & Register Now



National Association for Olmsted Parks National Conference

*Our Olmsted Legacy-
Learning from the Past,
Inspiring the Future*
April 30th - May 4th.

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks along with WASLA, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and City Parks Alliance are hosting the National Association for Olmsted Parks' annual conference in Seattle in the spring of 2003. The Conference will explore ways of preserving and enhancing our landscape heritage and examine methods of extending the Olmsted vision of a comprehensive system of parks and boulevards into contemporary urban planning. Thursday will be a day of lectures, workshops and tours, with an opening reception and keynote lecture in the evening by Jane Holtz Kay, author of *Asphalt Nation* and *Lost Boston*. Presentations, workshops, and tours will continue on Friday and Saturday, with additional tours, including optional trips to Rosario on Orcas Island and The Uplands in Victoria B.C. on Sunday. The themes of the conference follow three tracks: Honoring Our Olmsted Legacy; Extending the Olmsted Vision; and Responding to Contemporary Park Issues. Local and national experts will address issues ranging from the challenges associated with working and designing in historic park landscapes to contemporary social and environmental challenges facing our urban parks and communities.

For information about participating in, contributing to or volunteering to help with the Seattle 2003 NAOP Conference, see the website www.seattle.gov/FriendsofOlmstedParks or contact Kari Stiles at seattle2003@olmsted.org or call 206-332-9915.

For those interested in a total Northwest Olmsted experience, Portland is also celebrating its Olmsted Centennial in 2003. Portland is organizing a similar calendar of community events, a series of university level courses on parks and an Olmsted Symposium immediately preceding the Seattle NAOP Conference. Conference and symposium participants will be able to travel by train from Seattle to Portland and back, as John Charles Olmsted did 100 years ago, and enjoy lectures on the train and tours of Portland's Olmsted landscapes. For more information on Portland activities visit www.olmsted2003.org.

Olmsted Centennial Partners

Partners are each incorporating some aspect of the Centennial into their regular annual activities. To be listed as a partner please contact Kari Stiles, Centennial Coordinator, 206.332.9915.



Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
AIA Seattle
The Arboretum Foundation
Associated Recreation Council
Audubon Society of Portland
Canadian Consulate General
Canadian Studies Center, Henry M. Jackson
School of International Studies, UW
Cascade Land Conservancy
Center for Urban Horticulture
Department of Landscape Architecture, UW
EarthCorps
E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust
Friends of Frink Park
Friends of Gasworks Park
Friends of Interlaken at 26th
Friends of Interlaken Park
Friends of Seward Park
Friends of the Conservatory in Volunteer Park
Groundswell Off Broadway
Heritage Tree Committee – Plant Amnesty
Historic Seattle
HistoryLink
Jefferson Park Alliance
Mount Baker Community Club
Mountains To Sound Greenway Trust
Northwest Flower and Garden Show
Portland Olmsted Centennial Committee
Portland Parks & Recreation
Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
The Seattle Channel
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Seattle Design Commission
Seattle Garden Club
Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board
Seattle Parks Foundation
Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Seattle Urban Nature Project
Spokane Preservation Advocates
The Trust for Public Land
Urban Greenspaces Institute
Washington Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects
Washington Community Forestry Council
Department of Natural Resources
Executive Advisory Council
Washington State Nursery Landscape Association
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
... and growing 1/24/03

Olmsted Parks, Boulevards and Playgrounds System: Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

By Kate Krafft and Charlie Sundberg

Given the many projects occurring in and around our Olmsted Park system, including, for example, a proposal for a cell phone tower on Lake Washington Boulevard, we thought it would be useful to provide information about the system's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In November 1998, Seattle's Olmsted designed park, boulevard and playground system was formally determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register by the Washington Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). The Determination of Eligibility was requested as part of the environmental impact analysis undertaken in conjunction with planning for the Central Link Light Rail Project by Sound Transit.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, sites, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. Established under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register program is operated by the National Park Service in partnership with historic preservation programs in each state. Listing in the National Register is primarily honorary and does not impose the kind of formal design review or controls established by local historic preservation ordinances and programs. However, National Register properties and those that have been formally determined eligible for listing do receive some degree of protection from federally funded projects or undertakings that have the potential to adversely affect the historic and architectural character of the historic resource.

Seattle's Olmsted park and boulevard legacy was found to be significant for its association with the distinguished landscape architecture firm of the Olmsted Brothers; as a representative example of the landscape theories espoused by the City Beautiful Movement; and as an integrated system of parks, parkways, boulevards, playgrounds, arboreta and other components that exhibit skilled craftsmanship in construction and execution. The OAHP agreed that the Olmsted Plan met Criterion C for designed historic landscapes in *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*. The plan encompasses seven of the 17 types of historic landscapes identified in *Bulletin 18*, including; arboreta, botanical and display gardens; plaza/square/mall or other public spaces; campus and institutional grounds; parks and campgrounds; grounds designed or developed for outdoor recreation and/or sports activities; fair and exhibit grounds; and parkways, drives and trails.

One component of the Olmsted Plan, Volunteer Park, was individually listed in the National Register in 1976. Another component, the Lincoln Reservoir and Pump House was determined to be eligible in 1996. A definitive inventory of all of the components of the system has yet to be undertaken.

To inventory and map the multitude of features (e.g. vegetation, spatial relationships, views and vistas, circulation systems, site furnishings and features, buildings and structures) throughout the system will be a major undertaking.

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks has already compiled a significant body of archival material to facilitate research. In order to prepare a formal National Register nomination it will be necessary to conduct extensive field examination, photographic and map-based documentation and prepare historic contextual materials. A Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) approach is anticipated. With an MPD, a broad contextual document would be prepared and then selected individual segments can be inventoried and gradually nominated.

This information about the eligibility of Seattle's Olmsted designed park, boulevard and playground system for the National Register is useful because any project using Federal funding or requiring a Federal permit would be subject to Section 106 Review through OAHP. As an example, cell towers, even new antennas, require an FCC permit, so their construction and placement is a "federal undertaking" subject to formal review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Section 106 requires consideration of adverse impacts to cultural resources - but it doesn't necessarily prevent projects or protect resources. Using the cell tower as an example, considerations of effects on historic resources would be whether the new pole and antennae would be highly visible, out of scale or otherwise visually intrusive.

The question of whether a Section 106 Review has been prepared for any particular project can be raised with the DCLU permit intake person and the Section 106 reviewers for the City Historic Preservation Program (Karen Gordon at 684-0464, karen.gordon@seattle.gov), and for the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (Greg Griffith at 360-586-3073, gregg@cted.wa.gov).

The Olmsted Centennial provides further impetus for pursuing a National Register listing of our extensive Olmsted park legacy. If you are interested in helping get this effort underway, please contact FSOP at seattleolm@aol.com.

Olmsted on the Web

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks has a new website, thanks to the excellent work by Kari Stiles, our Centennial Coordinator. The site has the latest information on Centennial projects, events and activities, as well as sponsors and partners. It also has current information on the NAOP conference and will soon have online conference registration. Please visit the site at:

www.seattle.gov/FriendsofOlmstedParks

Kari would appreciate assistance in further developing and managing the site. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kari at 206.332.9915 or email her at seattle2003@olmsted.org.

Cheasty Boulevard

Landmark Designation Success

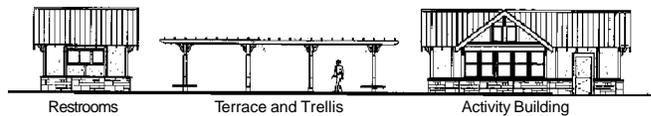
Cheasty Boulevard was formally designated a Seattle Landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Board on January 15. The Board voted unanimously for the motion made by Landmarks Boardmember Virginia Voorhees Wilcox to designate the boulevard under the following four criteria:

- C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political or economic heritage of the community, city, state or nation;
- D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period or of a method of construction;
- E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder;
- F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identify of such neighborhood or the city.

This is the first segment of the Seattle's Olmsted Boulevard System to be designated. Cheasty Boulevard connects from Jefferson Park on Beacon Hill down to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Rainier Avenue where Mt. Baker Boulevard picks up to connect through the neighborhood to Lake Washington. Cheasty Boulevard was named for Edward Cheasty, Board member and President of the Board of Park Commissioners. The connection to Beacon Hill was listed first on the Olmsted list of initial projects (dated May 31, 1903), so it seems appropriate that it be the first boulevard segment to be designated as a landmark.

Seattle Parks and Recreation has been working with the community over the past year to develop a master plan for Cheasty Boulevard. The historic nomination was prepared by Mimi Sheridan as part of that project. Construction drawings will be prepared this year to implement parts of the plan with available ProParks Levy funds, including drainage improvements, a trail, landscape restoration, and traffic calming.

Historic Lincoln Reservoir and Park Site



Sketch of New Shelterhouse Architect: Thomas Roth

Shelterhouse Nearing Completion

Groundswell Off Broadway and Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks have been actively participating in the preparation for the new shelterhouse serving Bobby Morris Playfield and Lincoln Reservoir/Park just east of Broadway on Capitol Hill.

Construction of the shelterhouse, designed by Thomas Roth and Associates, is nearing completion by Cope Construction. During initial site prep, a surprising discovery was made of two old abandoned 30" wood stove pipes crossing below the building site.

The design has successfully dealt with the complex siting needs within this landmark Olmsted park. The activity room is an attractive facility for special events, classes and meetings, as well as the Summer Youth Program. The terrace between the restroom building and the activity building will provide a pleasant gathering space. The site and building will be well lit to provide improved security.

We are very grateful to all the partners in this project, including Seattle Central Community College, Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities. For more information on how you can participate in this exciting project, please call Kay Rood at 322-5361, or email her at gobfsop2000@aol.com.

As part of the Neighborhood Matching project, in addition to many hours of volunteer time and the contribution from Seattle Central Community College, Groundswell Off Broadway is committed to raise cash contributions for the project. Contributions are going toward the art tiles of historic photographs for the new shelterhouse and other site improvements. Contributions for the shelterhouse project can be made to FSOP/ Groundswell Off Broadway, c/o Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, P.O. Box 9884, Seattle, WA 98109.

As part of the Olmsted Centennial events, the Seattle Parks Foundation is hosting a walking tour of this Olmsted park on Saturday, April 19, at 10am. We plan to have a dedication ceremony for the new shelterhouse the same day following the walking tour.

HELP WANTED Are you energetic and interested in learning more about our Olmsted legacy. Volunteers are needed to help make the NAOP conference a success. If you would like to help, contact Kari 206.332.9915 or seattle2003@olmsted.org. Conference discounts available for volunteers.

Olmsted

FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS

P.O. Box 9884, Seattle, Washington 98109

Board of Directors

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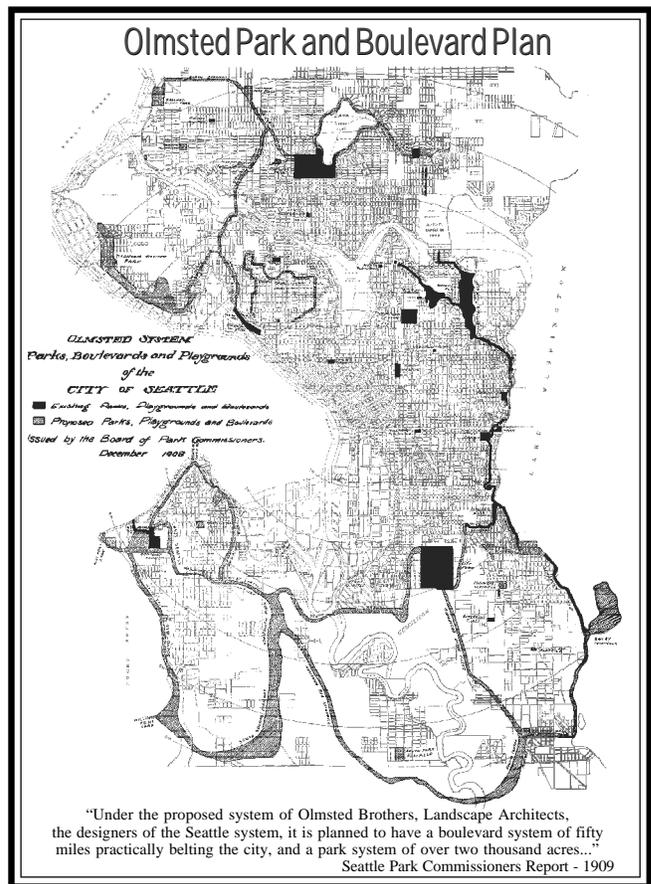
Mark Johnson
Nancy Keith
Carla Rickerson
Virginia Voorhees Wilcox

Formed in 1983 to promote awareness, enjoyment and care of our Olmsted parks and landscapes, both public and private.

For more information about the Friends, to join or volunteer, contact 206.332-9915 or seattle2003@olmsted.org.

Memberships: \$25 individual \$50 Supporting/Household
\$100 Sustaining/Business \$200 Donor \$500 Best Friend
Centennial Contribution: \$ _____

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FSOP Meetings and Events

January 27

6 pm - Olmsted Centennial Reception - REI
7 pm - TPL Lecture - Evolution of Parks - REI

February 3

7pm - FSOP Board Meeting, 100 Dexter Ave N

February 15

10am - Hiawatha Playfield Walking Tour

March 3

7pm - FSOP Board Meeting, 100 Dexter Ave N

March 15

10am - Jefferson Park/Cheasty Walking Tour

March 20

9:30am - Seattle Garden Club Lecture - Seattle Asian Art Museum

April 29-30 - Portland - Olmsted Symposium

May 1-4 - Seattle - National Association for Olmsted Parks Conference

Centennial Support

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer was instrumental in covering development of our park system in 1903 and providing information to readers to build support for it. In 2003 the PI is continuing that tradition by providing weekly display ads in the Thursday Getaways section as well as planning a series of articles about parks.

Centennial Sponsors and Supporters

We are very grateful for the generous financial and in-kind support, which is making the Centennial Celebration and NAOP Conference possible.

The Seattle Foundation
Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
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Steve Worthy and Associates
John Chaney
Bob Kildall

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Volunteers and additional funding are needed to make the Centennial Celebration a success.